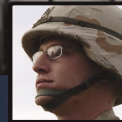


America's Tank Division



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"Any time those brigades go to the field, conduct gunnery, go to (Combat Maneuver Training Center), those platoons go with them," said 1st Lt. Paul Thiessen, 501st executive officer.

Thiessen added that when the brigades are not in the field the MPs augment the local law enforcement on the road; however, the road commitment is mostly handled by that area's BSB MPs.

Community members might say the patrolling is going well, but a lot of preparation was put in to getting the 501st ready for the mission.

After returning from Iraq "we went immediately in to law enforcement retraining to get the up to speed on taking over the road in the Wiesbaden community," said Thiessen.

The three-week training plan was put together by the 221st BSB Provost Marshall's Office.

"They anticipated our return here," Thiessen went on, "and they're the ones who actually conducted the training for the company to make sure we were up to speed on all of the standard operating procedures of the area."

The MPs currently run eight-hour shifts, plus

preparation time. They're days start with weapons draw, followed by guard mount, where they discuss any highlighted issues of the day and review the SOP.

Additionally, to ensure and maintain proficiency, the Soldiers go through a guard mount class that focuses on one topic that focuses on one subject that was taught during the three-week reintegration training.

"We go over something different every day," said Spc. Jerry Harris II, 501st MP Co. "That way everyone gets comfortable in what they're doing. It's like they say: 'practice makes perfect.'"

Overall, after 15 months in a combat environment, garrison law enforcement has been a welcomed change for the Soldiers of the 501st MP Co.

"This is our community," said Thiessen. "We take a lot of pride in it, and for us to come back and give back to the community what they gave to us while we were down range is a great opportunity."

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1st Lt. Paul Thiessen
501st Military Police Company
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